



# General Meeting Minutes

## January 19, 2017

*La Crescenta Library Community Room 7:00 pm*

[www.theCVcouncil.com](http://www.theCVcouncil.com)

or

[contact@thecvcouncil.com](mailto:contact@thecvcouncil.com)

*Welcome to the monthly meeting of the Crescenta Valley Town Council.*

*Please turn off, or set to manner mode, cellular phones while inside the Council meeting*

1. Call to Order & Welcome, President Dickson 7:05 PM
2. Flag Salute, Boy Scouts Troop 391.
3. Invocation, Pastor Steve Marshall, CVUMC
4. Roll Call, Acting Recording Secretary Jo Ann Stupakis - Present: Dickson, Leon, Rabinov, Griffin, Claessens, Ordubegian, Stupakis, Barnes, Studebaker, Ear, Lee. Not Present: Beatty.
5. Approval of December Minutes – Motion by Leon, seconded by Ordubegian. Approved unanimously.
6. Approval of January Agenda – Motion by Leon, seconded by Studebaker. Approved unanimously.
7. Elect new officers – Mike Claessens – Five offices open – List of officers (President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary). President vote – 8 regular members present, 5 is a majority. Harry Leon elected as President. Vice President – Harry Leon listed his name on ballot. Asked for nominations from the floor – none - Mike Claessens by way of acclamation – Vice President. Recording Secretary – Aram Ordubegian is Recording Secretary. Treasurer – three nominations Mariam Barnes & Desiree Rabinov tied after three votes 4-4. Brandon Lee appeared to meeting. Mariam Barnes elected Treasurer. Corresponding Secretary is Sophal Ear.
8. Swear in of new officers by Steve Pierce – President: Harry Leon, Vice President – Mike Claessens, Recording Secretary – Aram Ordubegian, Treasurer – Mariam Barnes; Corresponding Secretary – Sophal Ear.
9. 3037-3045 Foothill Condo Development Presentation – Three speaker cards collected. Brief presentation from architect.
10. Public comments on 3037-3045 Condo Project – Jason Kim, real estate broker of developer spoke first about how the project started and the background of the project. In February 2014, the current developed purchased the property and knew that “by right”

several residences could be built. After meetings with the Land Use Committee, the “by right” development was changed to meet the demands of the community. The developer believes that there will now be fewer residential units and amenities that everyone can enjoy. Also, oak trees on the properties are also being saved and the Community Standards District requirements are being met. The developer listened to the neighbors and added more landscaping and made the project fit in better within the La Crescenta look. A traffic study will be done even though one is not required. An environmental study is required and one will be performed. The total height will be lower to help address privacy issues raised by neighbors. The commercial portion is to be more vibrant as requested by the County. This includes more friendly frontage for restaurants and other such businesses. The developer wants the project to be a landmark project for La Crescenta. Pam Heiberg, a local realtor, also spoke to discuss the low inventory in our community.

Land Use Committee considered the project on two separate occasions and after considerations from neighbors, the Committee voted in favor of the project 6 to 1. Paul Rabinov of LUC presented to the Council what occurred before the 2 meetings before the LUC.

Deborah Lee spoke against the project. She lives on 3028 Fairesta Avenue. Her family lives behind the project and believes the project will block the light into her property.

Chung Lee decided to withdraw his speaker card and it was not read into the record.

Stuart Byles, President of the local historical society, spoke about how the project does not satisfy the types of designs/styles that the CSD requires. Local stone should be used on the front of the project. He stated that the community should look for architectural greatness.

Sherri Mudd has collected over 250 signatures in opposition to the project and she spoke to the Council. Problems include impact on water needs, schools, blocking of views of the mountains, and the need to follow the architectural elements and designs/styles in the CSD. The signatures will be presented to the County and other appropriate agencies.

Councilmember Studebaker was concerned about the current retail vacancies on Foothill Blvd., the style of the project which does not fit in the community, and she questions whether residents beyond 1000 feet have been notified of this project. Also, she stated that Foothill Blvd. was never intended to have residences and she asked to see how this project coordinates with the future medians projects. Councilmember Rabinov noted that there will be no medians in or around the project.

Valley View Elementary School is the elementary school that will be impacted most and a GUSD representative noted that Valley View Elementary has capacity for more students. This information was confirmed by Dr. Gandera of the GUSD.

Councilmembers Barnes and Dickson thanked the developer for working with the community’s concerns and asked the developer to keep communications with the

community open. Councilmember Lee stated his hope that the new residences be at a price level whereby local residences can afford the units.

A motion was made by Councilmember Claessens to approve the recommendation of LUC to approve this project with a caveat that a traffic study be conducted and the 3 to 4 parking spots in front of the project be marked RED – NO PARKING. Councilmember Dickson seconded. 7 votes (Dickson, Ear, Barnes, Griffin, Ordubegian, Rabinov and Stupakis) in favor and 2 votes against (Lee and Leon)

#### Community Announcements:

**Library:** Marta Wiggins informed the Council that the La Crescenta library opened 7 years ago and an announcement was made about upcoming readings. AARP tax help services will be at the library in the coming month.

**American Legion:** Kathy Almond, wife of Roy Almond, passed away recently. Both Kathy and Roy were active in the American Legion and the community. On January 28, 2017, a memorial will be held in Ms. Almond's honor. Monies raised from the upcoming May 20 Bingo will again be distributed to veterans later this year. Prom Plus will be partnering with the American Legion for an April 21, 2017 bingo to raise monies for the Prom Plus.

**CHP:** Officer Cooper discussed the new cell phone law which took effect on January 1, 2017 concerning when and how cell phones can be used while driving a vehicle. In December 2016 there were 2 collisions on the 210 freeway. There was a discussion about the ongoing road closing and road work on the 210 freeway. The closure of the Pennsylvania off-ramp has not yet occurred.

**GUSD:** Dr. Gandra updated the Council about the Sagebrush issues and it is expected that the petition will come up for consideration at the February 1, 2017 meeting of regional board that considers these matters. The recent rain has delayed various construction projects at the local schools.

**CVWD:** Tom Love discussed the impact of the recent storms with regard of water supply. Our local water supply comes from local ground water and imported from the Metropolitan Water District. The drought has impacted the water supply over the past 5 to 7 years. Our community has done an admirable job for water conservation. Charts were provided to show the community's increase of ground water production during the wet years, along with maps of the State of California to show the status of drought recovery. The Verdugo Wash water collection project remains ongoing as is the Well 16 project. The automatic meter reader systems are still being installed and the hope is to get these all installed within the next two years. Such meters will help consumers know if there is a leak or other wasting of water. La Crescenta is not yet out of the drought, though the hope is that after the winter rains our community will be out of the drought.

**CV Chamber:** Steve Pierce informed the Council that the Chamber Bingo is on February 4, 2017 which will be held at the Verdugo Hills Hospital. On April 29, 2017 will be the Hometown County Fair.

CV Cert: Steve Pierce informed the Council that certificate training will begin this month on January 28, 2017 and it is free.

CV Ready: Don Ross discussed that today is the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Northridge earthquake. We were asked to think how our various organizations will be prepared for disasters. The Council was informed on how organizations can prepare and have on-going communication during the time the grid is up and down.

Public Comments: NONE

Council Business

We will be updating our Council letterhead with new members.

The Treasure report was provided to the Council and a motion was made and approved.

Second reading of the Bylaws change: Article VI, #8 was conducted: "Land Use meetings will be held the first Thursday of the month . . . . (everyone voted in favor)

Motion to extend terms of LUC members: A motion is made to extend the term of the 3 Land Use Committee Members whose terms expired at the end of 2016 by one year. This one year extension of their term, without the need for interviewing for potential new replacement members, will allow the current members of the Land Use Committee to finish the Foothill Community Standards District that they have been working on over the past 2 years. (Ordubegian and Lee abstain, everyone else voted in favor)

Motion to request funds from the County was discussed and operational expenses of the Council will be added to the request. Everyone voted in favor.